RULES.

OF THE

BAND SOCIETIES.

Drawn up DEC. 25, 1738.

THE Deſſign of our Meeting is to obey that Command of God, *Confeſs your Faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed.*

To this End, we intend,

1. To meet once a Week, at the leaſt.
2. To come punctually at the Hour appointed, without ſome extraordinary Reaſon.
3. To begin (thoſe of us who are preſent) exactly at the Hour with Singing or Prayer.
4. To ſpeak, each of us in Order, freely and plainly the true State of our Souls, with the Faults we have committed in Thought, Word, or Deed, and the Temptations we have felt ſince our laſt Meeting.
5. To End every Meeting with Prayer, ſuited to the State of each Perſon preſent.
6. To deſire ſome Perſon among us to ſpeak HIS own State firſt, and then to aſk the reſt in Order, as many and as ſearching Queſtions as may be, concerning their State, Sins, and Temptations.

Some of the Queſtions propoſed to every one before HE is admitted among us, may be to this effect.

1. Have you the Forgiveneſs of your Sins?
2. Have you Peace with GOD, through our LORD JESUS CHRIST?

3. Have you the Witneſs of GOD's Spirit with your Spirit, that you are a Child of GOD?

4. Is the Love of GOD ſhed abroad in your Heart?

5. Has no Sin, inward or outward, Dominion over you?

6. Do you deſire to be told of your Faults?

7. Do you deſire to be told of all your Faults, and that plain and home?

8. Do you deſire, that every one of us ſhould tell you, from Time to Time, whatſoever is in HIS heart concerning you?

9. Conſider! Do you deſire we ſhould tell you whatſoever we think, whatſoever we fear, whatſoever we hear, concerning you?

10. Do you deſire, that in doing this we ſhould come as cloſe as poſſible, that we ſhould cut to the Quick, and ſearch your Heart to the Bottom?

11. Is it your Deſire and Deſign to be on this and all other Occaſions entirely open, ſo as to ſpeak every Thing that is in your Heart, without exception, without Diſguiſe, and without Reſerve?

Any of the preceeding Queſtions may be aſked as often as Occaſion offers: The five following at every Meeting.

1. What known Sins have you committed ſince our laſt Meeting?

2. What Temptations have you met with?

3. How was you delivered?

4. What have you thought, ſaid, or done, of which you doubt whether it be Sin or not?

5. Have you nothing you deſire to keep ſecret?

DIRECTIONS *given to the* BAND SOCIETIES.

DEC. 25, 1744.

YOU are ſuppoſed to have the *Faith that overcometh the World.* To you therefore it is not grievous.

I. Carefully to abſtain from doing Evil; in particular,

1. Neither to *buy* or *ſell* any Thing at all on the Lord's Day.

2. To taſte no Spirituous Liquor, *no Dram* of any Kind, unleſs preſcribed by a Phyſician.

3. To be *at a Word* both in buying and ſelling.

4. To *pawn nothing*, no, not to ſave Life.

5. Not to *mention the Fault* of any *behind his Back*, and to ſtop thoſe ſhort that do.

6. To wear no *needleſs Ornaments*, ſuch as Rings, Ear-rings, Necklaces, Lace, Ruffles.

7. To uſe no *needleſs Self-indulgence*, ſuch as taking Snuff or Tobacco, unleſs preſcribed by a Phyſician.

II. Zealouſly to maintain Good Works; in particular,

1. To *give Alms* of ſuch Things us you poſſeſs, and that to the uttermoſt of your Power.

2. To *reprove* all that ſin in your Sight, and that in Love, and meekneſs of Wiſdom.

3. To be Patterns of *Diligence* and *Frugality*, of *Self-denial*, and taking up the Croſs daily.

III. Conſtantly to attend on all the Ordinances of God; in particular,

1. To be at Church, and at the Lord's Table, every Week, and at every publick Meeting of the Bands.

2. To attend the Miniſtry of the Word every Morning, unleſs Diſtance, Buſineſs, or Sickneſs prevent.

3. To uſe Private Prayer every Day, and Family Prayer, if you are the Head of a Family.

4. To read the Scriptures, and meditate thereon, at every vacant Hour. And,

5. To obſerve, as Days of Faſting or Abſtinence, all *Fridays* in the Year.

FINIS.